

7 September 1961

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 7 September 1961

**PRESENT:** General Taylor; Mr. Johnson; Mr. Gilpatrick, General Lemnitzer, Admiral Anderson; General Cabell (items 1-3), Mr. Bissell

1. Minutes

A rewritten version of paragraph 9 of last week's minutes, revised in accordance with a Defense suggestion, was circulated. With this amendment, the minutes were approved.

2. Schedule for Overflights and Peripheral Flights

The September schedules submitted by Defense and CIA were approved. In response to Mr. Johnson's question, Mr. Parrott undertook to follow up on what relation the numerous Chinese Communist protests have to any of these flights.

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4. Photographic Reconnaissance of Laos

The Group then turned to discussion of General Lemnitzer's memorandum of 5 September 1961, recommending certain photographic reconnaissance over Laos. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that this proposal is not in conflict with the intent of paragraph 5 of National Security Memorandum No. 80. It was felt that that paragraph covered one of a number of points raised in the Southeast Asia meeting, but that it was not intended to be comprehensive and thus restrictive. Apart from this, the Group felt that the proposed missions are necessary and that they are not a violation of any cease-fire agreements although they might be the cause for Communist charges.

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5. Berlin

The Group noted the second progress report of the Special Working Group, dated 6 September. With regard to the other paper from the Working Group, of the same date, the Group felt that the general proposals outlined were probably not very promising. The Working Group was to be asked, however, to continue its efforts to develop action to achieve the desired ends.

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6. Communist Counter-Strategy Group in INR

At the Chairman's request, Mr. Johnson explained the general functions of this group and noted that a director has not yet been appointed. He stressed that the organization will cut across Bureau lines in its efforts to analyze and counter Soviet moves.

Thomas A. Parrott

Distribution:

Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Gilpatric  
General Cabell  
General Taylor